

Filed for intro on 05/03/2001

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 337

By Kisber

A RESOLUTION To create a special joint committee to study the federally-mandated conversion of television broadcasting from an analog mode to a high definition digital mode and the financial impact of such conversion on Tennessee's public television stations.

WHEREAS, In 1997, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandated that all noncommercial stations be required to have their digital signal by May, 2003, and set the year 2006 as the target date for broadcasters to complete their transition to digital transmission and to surrender their NTSC frequencies; and

WHEREAS, The requirement of this conversion will have a significant financial impact upon the public television stations of Tennessee that are dependent upon subscribing viewers and corporate donations for their operating budget; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the financial impact of the FCC-mandated conversion of television broadcasts from analog to digital on public television stations in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of five (5) members of the House of Representatives and five (5) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly by February 1, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.